



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Washington, D.C. 20240

MAY 20 2002

Memorandum

To: Bureau Directors, BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS
Bureau Assistant Directors for Administration, BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS
Bureau Fire Directors, BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS
Bureau Procurement Chiefs, BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS
Bureau Budget Officers, BLM, BIA, FWS, NPS

From: P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget *PLS*

Subject: National Fire Plan Acquisition and Assistance Management Review

The final report of the recently completed National Fire Plan Acquisition and Assistance Management Review is attached for your review. The report and all appendices will be available on the National Fire Plan website: WWW.FIREPLAN.GOV. The National Fire Plan is one of the highest operational priorities of this Department. The Congress has established, and the Administration strongly endorsed, a policy that local contract personnel are to be used wherever possible for hazardous fuels treatment and burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation. Secretary Norton stressed the need for increased contracting in her memorandum of April 24, 2002, copy attached. In that memorandum, she asked that wildland fire plan bureaus establish accurate FY 2001 performance benchmarks in fire plan contracting and also aggressive goals for increases in FY 2002. The due date for submission of the benchmarks and goals is extended to June 7, 2002.

The attached charts of available FY 2001 contracts data clearly indicate a need for concerted effort on the part of several bureaus in contracting to small local entities for fuels treatment and burned area rehabilitation work. We expect to see bureau contract goals established for annual increases in contracting to small, local entities in FY 2002 and beyond, measured as a percent of available fuels treatment and burned area rehabilitation dollars going to contracts, such that all bureaus attain 50 percent by FY 2005.

Similarly, increased efforts are in order for providing assistance (grants and/or cooperative agreements as appropriate) to rural communities to build capacity for hazardous fuels reduction, outreach, and education associated with fuels management and risk reduction. These efforts in community support often form the foundation for subsequent, successful contract expertise as required in the fuels reduction and rehabilitation efforts.

The recommendations in the attached report should be helpful in your efforts to increase contracting in this critical area. Corrective actions are already underway, including the Secretary's memorandum of April 24 to clearly state the intent to contract to field levels. Note that the memorandum calls for similar statements of support from bureau senior management. I am asking that this report be distributed as appropriate to all management levels of your fire,

procurement and budget staffs, and that the Secretary's memorandum be provided to all personnel involved in the wildland fire program.

Attachments

**cc: Nina Rose Hatfield , DAS-B&F
Willie Taylor, PEP
Eric Ruff, OCO
David Bernhardt, OCL
John Trezise, POB
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